

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EB-07 STR-04 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /077 W
-----021683 220422Z /13

R 211615Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 116
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
SECDEF
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDOC WASHDC

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USOECD

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ESTC, UR, CSCE
SUBJECT: PRAVDA JOINS IN ATTACK ON U.S. STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS

REF: MOSCOW 10395 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PRAVDA COMMENTATOR AND NEW TIMES HAVE JOINED
IN THE ATTACK ON THE PENTAGON FOR TRYING TO MAKE U.S.
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EXPORT CONTROLS MORE STRINGENT. THEY CHARGE THAT
PENTAGON SEEKS VETO OVER COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS WITH
"SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" BY FIRMS IN OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES
AS WELL AS THOSE BY AMERICAN FIRMS. STRIDENT TONE OF
ARTICLES MAY REFLECT SOVIET CONCERN THAT OPPOSITION TO SALES
OF HIGH-TECHNOLOGY ITEMS MAY BE INCREASING IN THE U.S.
SEVERAL U.S. BUSINESSMEN IN MOSCOW HAVE COMPLAINED TO US

OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS THAT RECENT CHANGES IN U.S. EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS HAVE INCREASED DIFFICULTY OF DOING BUSINESS HERE, IN PARTICULAR IN ELECTRONIC-DATA-PROCESSING-RELATED ITEMS. IT IS LIKELY THAT SOVIETS ARE ALSO AWARE OF THESE CHANGES AND THAT THIS FORMS PART OF BACKGROUND BEHIND THEIR REACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. PRAVDA AND NEW TIMES HAVE NOW JOINED IZVESTIYA AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA IN ATTACKING PENTAGON FOR TRYING TO MAKE U.S. STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS MORE STRINGENT (REFTEL). ANDREY TOLKUNOV, PRAVDA POLITICAL COMMENTATOR, WRITING IN A COLUMN ON JULY 20, USES SAME WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE AS BASIS FOR HI ATTACK. NEW TIMES ALSO CARRIED SIMILAR ARTICLE. BOTH MAKE ADDITIONAL CHARGE THAT PENTAGON IS ATTEMPTING NOT ONLY TO GET CONTROL OVER THE BUSINESS RELATIONS OF ITS OWN FIRMS BUT ALSO TO OBTAIN A VETO OVER COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS WITH THE "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES OF FIRMS IN OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. TOLKUNOV ALSO CITES "BUSINESS WEEK" AS STATING THAT AMERICAN FIRMS HAVE LOST "OVER \$2 BILLION IN SOVIET ORDERS" SINCE IMPOSITION OF JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT. TOLKUNOV SEES PENTAGON AND OTHER "OPPONENTS OF DETENTE" AS DESIRING TO IMPOSE GREATER CONTROLS ON NON-AMERICAN FIRMS' SALES TO EAST PARTLY IN ORDER TO LESSEN PRESSURE FROM AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS AGAINST UNILATERAL RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THEM.

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2. COMMENT: THESE ARE THIRD AND FOURTH SOVIET PRESS ARTICLES IN WEEK TO USE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE TO ATTACK U.S. STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS. WHILE ATTACK IS OSTENSIBLY DIRECTED AGAINST PENTAGON'S ATTEMPT TO STRENGTHEN CONTROLS, PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA GO FURTHER. THEY BROADEN THE ATTACK TO INCLUDE AMERICAN "CIRCLES" WHO ARE "ANTI-DETENTE" AND RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH MEASURES AS THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT.

3. WHILE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE SEEMS TO HAVE PROVIDED THE SOVIETS WITH THEIR CURRENT AMMUNITION, IT DOES NOT EXPLAIN THE VEHEMENCE OR PERSISTENCE OF THE ATTACK. IT MAY BE THAT IN THE PRESENT GENERAL ATMOSPHERE THE SOVIETS ARE CONCERNED THAT OPPOSITION TO SALES OF HIGH-TECHNOLOGY ITEMS--WHICH THEY MOST DESIRE AND NEED--WILL INCREASE. IN THIS CONNECTION, A NUMBER OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN IN MOSCOW HAVE COMPLAINED THAT ITEMS PREVIOUSLY SUBJECT TO GENERAL LICENSING CONTROLS HAVE BEEN MOVED TO LIST REQUIRING SPECIFIC LICENSES; E.,G., CALCULATORS. THEY ALSO COMPLAIN THAT NEW EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION FORMS ARE MORE COMPLICATED AND REQUIRE INFORMATION DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN FROM SOVIET BUYER.

4. SOVIETS COULD BE EXPECTED TO REACT STRONGLY TO ANY SIGN THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS TIGHTENING OR EVEN CONSIDERING TIGHTENING EXPORT CONTROLS. IT IS PROBABLY THAT SOVIETS ARE ALREADY AWARE OF THE RECENT CHANGES MENTIONED ABOVE AND THAT THIS FORMS PART OF THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THESE NEWS STORIES AND COMMENTARY.

. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING TEXT OF WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE IN QUESTION.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770734/aaaabcrb.tel
Line Count: 126
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Message ID: 1ae2ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 10395
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1791408
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRAVDA JOINS IN ATTACK ON U.S. STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS
TAGS: ESTC, SOPN, UR, US, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1ae2ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009